THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Three incident of poaching of lions have been recorded on 3/3/2007, 30/3/2007 and 14/4/2007 involving poaching of total 8 lions.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Relocation of lions was planned for its better conservation against outbreak of epidemics, which may cause decimation of a localized population.

(e) and (f) Yes, Sir. The Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun carried out a survey in 1993-94 in various protected areas and forests of Gujarat, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh, and finally recommended the Kuno-Palpur sanctuary in Morena district of Madhya Pradesh as most suitable site for establishing an alternate home for Asiatic lion. However, relocation of the lions has not commenced yet.

Cleaning of Yamuna in Delhi

2787. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that his Ministry has proposed eight point charter for cleaning Yamuna river in Delhi; and

(b) if so, the main features thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Pench National Park

2788. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 257.26 square kilometre area notified from Maharashtra as Pench National Park in 1975 was declared as the 25th Tiger Reserve of India in 1998 and a contiguous area in MP of 757.85 square kilometre was also declared as the 19th Tiger Reserve in 1992;

(b) if so, whether Pench National Park situated in Nagpur district has only one village situated inside the Park, but attention is also required to

be paid for the 19 other villages situated on the borders of this National Park; and

(c) the plans of Government towards the resettlement of these villages and when it is likely to be fully implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) Pench Tiger Reserve (757.85 sq.km) in Madhya Pradesh and in Maharashtra are covered under Project Tiger during 1992-93 and 1998-99 respectively. There is only one village in Pench National Park namely Fulzari and there are 34 villages situated within 10 km periphery of the Pench National Park, Maharashtra. As per Wildlife (Protection) Amendment Act, 2006 enabling provisions has been made for preparation of Tiger Conservation Plan for each tiger reserve by delineating core and buffer areas, incorporating strategies for wildlife conservation in the core and joint-collaborative inclusive management in the buffer areas, for which States have been requested.

(c) The Wildlife institute of India has been mandated to assess the core areas of tiger reserves where village relocation has to be undertaken, in addition to other protected areas of the country within a timeframe. Simultaneously, action has been taken for developing a model involuntary village relocation/rehabilitation package through professional agency. Till this is finalised and approved by the competent authority funding support is being provided to States as per existing norms under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Project Tiger. States have been requested for proposal for villages to be relocated/rehabilitated from the tiger reserves.

Conservation of wastelands in Rajasthan

2789. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether according to WWF-India, Freshwater and Wastelands Conservation Programme, Rajasthan has identified 1054 wastelands spread over 3,449.64 square kilometres;

(b) if so, the steps taken to conserve them;